

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BOMBAY 00515 100853 Z

13

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 T-03

OMB-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /102 W
----- 019182

R 100722 Z MAR 73

FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3673
AMCONSUL MADRAS
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 515

E. O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINT
SUBJECT: BOMBAY MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

1. SUMMARY: CONGRESS NOT ONLY FAILED OBTAIN EXPECTED ABSOLUTE MAJORITY BOMBAY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ELECTIONS BUT LOST HEAVILY TO OPPOSITION IN THE PROCESS. END SUMMARY

2. ELECTIONS TO 140 SEAT BOMBAY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION HELD MARCH 9. ALTHOUGH CONGRESS WON 24 OF BOMBAY'S 28 SEATS IN 1972 STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, CONGRESS NOT ONLY FAILED OBTAIN HOPED- FOR ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS BUT LOST 16 OF PREVIOUSLY HELD 61 SEATS IN THE PROCESS. BOMBAY- BASED SHIV SENA (ADVOCATING JOBS FOR MAHARASHTRIANS) CAME IN CLOSE SECOND WITH 39, INCREASING ITS SEATS BY 4. JANA SANGH INCREASED ITS SEATS FROM 6 TO 15 AND MUSLIM LEAGUE RE- EMERGED AS POLITICAL FORCE BY INCREASING ITS SEATS FROM 2 TO 16. SOCIALISTS TOOK ONLY 8 SEATS, LOSING 2, OLD CONGRESS WON 4, AND INDEPENDENTS 9. CPI INCREASED ITS SEATS FROM 2 TO 3 AND CPM GOT ONE.

3. COMMENTS: RESULTS WERE UNEXPECTED AND CAME AS SURPRISE LOCALLY SINCE CONGRESS HAD GENERALLY BEEN EXPECTED INCREASE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BOMBAY 00515 100853 Z

ITS SEATS. WHILE TOO MUCH SHOULD NOT BE READ INTO RESULTS, WE FEEL THEY ARE INDICATION OF WAY WIND IS BLOWING. INCREASES REGISTERED BY OPPOSITION PARTIES AND LOSSES INCURRED BY CONGRESS CAN BE ATTRIBUTED IN CONSIDERABLE MEASURE IN OUR VIEW TO STEADILY RISING PRESSURE ON LOWER INCOME STRATA ON ONE HAND AND GROWING DISENCHANTMENT BY MORE AFFLUENT BUSINESS-ORIENTED COMMUNITY WITH DELHI'S ECONOMIC POLICIES OR LACK THEREOF AS SEEN IN JANA SANGH VOTE. (SWANTANTRA DID NOT ENTER THE FIELD.) FACT IS THAT NOT VERY MUCH HEADWAY IS BEING MADE LOCALLY IN DEALING WITH MAJOR ECONOMIC ISSUES, PARTICULARLY INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT, THE LOT OF LOWER MIDDLE CLASS AND BELOW IS DAILY GETTING TOUGHER, AND THERE IS NOT MUCH TO SUGGEST IT WILL IMPROVE SOON. CONGRESS SUFFERS FROM FACT IT HAS UNDISPUTED POLITICAL POWER BUT IS UNABLE TRANSLATE IT INTO SATISFACTION OF RISING LEVEL OF EXPECTATIONS.

4. SUCCESS OF SHIV SENA HIGHLIGHTS OPPOSITION OF UNEMPLOYED MAHARASHTRIAN COMMUNITY GENERALLY WHICH SEES ITSELF AS DISADVANTAGED MINORITY GROUPING IN BOMBAY (38 PERCENT). JANA SANGH'S SUCCESS REFLECTED SUPPORT FROM BOMBAY'S NON-MAHARASHTRIAN AFFLUENT BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY. MUSLIM OPPOSITION TO RULING CONGRESS LARGELY DUE TO GOI EFFORTS SECULARIZE MUSLIM COMMUNITY.

5. HEAVY ELECTORAL SETBACK TO RULING CONGRESS IN BOMBAY FURTHER UNDERLINES DISSATISFACTION OF URBAN ELECTORATE IN MAHARASHTRA TOWARD THE PARTY. IT LOST A CIVIC BY- ELECTION TO JANA SANGH ON FEBRUARY 25 IN POONA AND LOST MAYOR OF NAGPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION THE SAME MONTH. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE CONGRESS IS NOT CONTESTING TWO BY- ELECTIONS TO THE AHMEDABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GUJARAT DUE MARCH 25 BECAUSE THEY FEAR OPPOSITION STRENGTH.

6. RESULTS UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE COME AS BITTER BLOW TO LEADER OF BOMBAY PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE RAJNI PATEL, A PRO- SOVIET EX- MEMBER CPI WHO WAS PLACED IN HIS POSITION BY MRS. GANDHI IN JANUARY 1972. HE WAS SUPPOSED TO REPRESENT YOUNGER AND MORE LIBERAL FORCES IN CONGRESS AND WAS CONSIDERED EVEN AS POSSIBLE EVENTUAL SUCCESSOR TO CHIEF MINISTER MAHARASHTRA. IN OUR VIEW, MORE CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS OF CONGRESS PARTY LOCALLY ARE UNLIKELY MOURN HIS FAILURE AT POLLS AND MAY WELL USE OCCASION TRY AND PERSUADE PM PICK A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BOMBAY 00515 100853 Z

REPLACEMENT.

BANE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BOMBAY00515
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BOMBAY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730325/aaaahmtm.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <08-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 971119
Subject: BOMBAY MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS
TAGS: PINT, IN
To: CALCUTTA
MADRAS
NEA
NEW DELHI
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

